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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/664,490

09/17/2003

John F. Boylan

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EXAMINER

MENDOZA, MICHAEL G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3734

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/02/2011

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/664,490	Applicant(s) BOYLAN ET AL.	
	Examiner MICHAEL G. MENDOZA	Art Unit 3734	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 January 2011.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

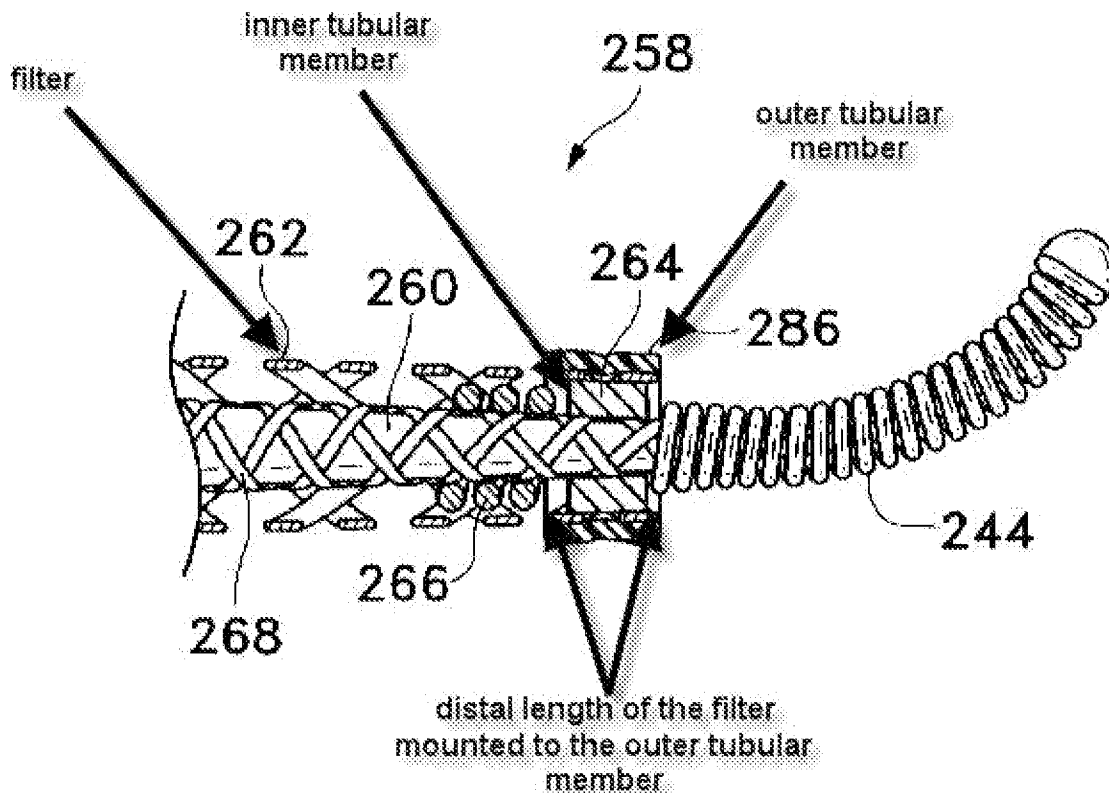
Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 12/9/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues that Samson et al. in view of Levinson et al. does not teach a structure for mounting an entire filtering assembly so that it can rotate along a shaft member, and that Samson fails to recognize the use of an outer tubular member with a shorter inner member for mounting the entire filtering assembly thereto. The examiner disagrees with the applicant's arguments. The claims are silent regarding the mounting of the entire filtering assembly to an outer tubular member. The independent claim recites "the filtering assembly being mounted on an outer tubular member which is coaxially disposed over an inner tubular member having a length shorter than the outer tubular member". The limitation only requires that the filter be mounted to the outer tubular member. As seen in fig. 4C, part of the filter (262) is mounted to the outer tubular member (286). The outer tubular member (286) is coaxially disposed over an inner tubular member (264) that has a length that is shorter than the outer tubular member. The newly added limitation of "and the outer tubular member extends along the length of the filter assembly" does not define what is considered "the length". The distal end of filter (262) has a length. As seen in fig. 4C, the outer tubular member (286) extends over a length of at least the distal end of the filter.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Samson et al. 6383205 in view of Levinson et al. 6277138.

4. Samson et al. teaches an embolic protection device for capturing embolic debris released into a body vessel of a patient, comprising: a shaft member (260) having a distal end, a proximal end and a stop fitting (244); and a filtering assembly rotatably

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mounted on the shaft member near the distal end thereof (col. 4, lines 14-17), the filtering assembly being mounted on an outer tubular member (286) which is coaxially disposed over an inner tubular member (264) having a length shorter than the outer tubular member, wherein one end of the inner tubular member is adapted to abut against the stop fitting located on the shaft member (fig. 4c). It should be noted that Samson et al. fails to teach an expandable strut. Samson teaches an expandable cage without struts.

5. Levinson et al. teaches a device with a filtering assembly rotatably mounted on a shaft, the filtering assembly including an expandable strut assembly and a filter attached to the struts. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Samson et al. in view of Levinson et al. to use expandable struts with a filter as since the expandable filters are mechanical expedients of each other and perform the same function.

6. Samson et al. teaches the embolic protection device of claim 1, wherein: the shaft member is a guide wire and includes a distal spring tip coil (244), the spring tip coil serving as the stop fitting which abuts against the inner tubular member (fig. 4c); wherein each of the inner and outer tubular member has a proximal end and a distal end and the guide wire includes a second stop fitting (266) in an abutting relationship with the proximal ends of the outer and inner tubular member; and wherein the outer tubular member extends over a portion of the spring tip coil of the guide wire (fig. 4c).

7. As to claim 5, Samson et al. teaches the embolic protection device of claim 2 except for wherein the outer and inner tubular members are made from polyimide. It

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would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use polyimide, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL G. MENDOZA whose telephone number is (571)272-4698. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Jackson can be reached on (571) 272-4697. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. G. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 3734

/Gary Jackson/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3734
February 28, 2011